British national visiting India and travelling in Ist AC from New Delhi to New Jalpaiguri of the train was threatened at gunpoint by them who had no reservation in Ist AC. There were heated exchanges and Mr. Rees was threatened and subsequently allowed to occupy an upper berth. He was also prevented from leaving the berth until these persons had detrained at Patna.

(c) Since this is a law and order problem, the matter has been referred to Bihar Government for further action. Besides, manning of the reserved coaches, steps are also taken by Railways with the assistance of police and Railway Protection force personnel to avoid recurrence of such incidents. However, an apology has since been sent to the British High Commission regretting the inconvenience to Mr. Rees.

**Maintenance of trains at New Delhi**

2917. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that almost 50% of trains that roll out of the maintenance pit at the New Delhi Railway Station are given fitness certificates even though they are not safe to run;

(b) if so, what is the existing procedure to ensure that trains are absolutely safe to run, before they are rolled out of the maintenance pit; and

(c) whether Government have examined the checking system with a view to remove the deficiency, if any; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Sir, no train is given fitness certificate until it is safe to run.

(b) under the existing system, trains are thoroughly attended in the maintenance pit line and a fit memo is issued by the supervisor before train is rolled out of the pit after ensuring that the train is absolutely safe to run.

(c) yes, Sir. The functioning of coach examination and maintenance system is regularly monitored through inspections and internal auditing. Safety aspects are also superchecked by safety teams deputed to the depot.

**अम्बिकापुर को नई रेलगाड़ी द्वारा जोड़ना**

2918. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 31 मार्च, 1999 की स्थिति के अनुसार, अम्बिकापुर को नई रेलगाड़ी से जोड़ने, नए रेलवे साइडिंग का निर्माण करने तथा राजगढ़ में कम्प्यूटरीकृत आरक्षण सुविधा प्रदान करने और मध्य प्रदेश में बिलासपुर में नए रेलवे जोन की स्थापना करने की दिशा में क्या प्रगति हुई है;

(ख) उक्त प्रयोजनार्थ कितने वन-क्षेत्र एवं कृषि योग्य भूमि की आवश्यकता होगी; और

(ग) उक्त प्रयोजनार्थ वित्तीय प्रावधानों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

**रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक):** (क) से (ग) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

**ड्राइवरों/गार्डों के लिए वाकी-टॉकी का प्रावधान**

2919. **श्री खान गुफ़रान जाहिदी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार रेल दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए रेलवे के ड्राइवरों/गार्डों को वाकी-टॉकी उपलब्ध कराने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो रेल दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने हेतु क्या सुरक्षा उपाय किए जा रहे हैं?

**रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक):** (क) और (ख) आपात स्थिति में सभी "ए" और "बी" मार्गों पर चल रही मेल/एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों के ड्राइवरों और गार्डों को संचार व्यवस्था सुलभ कराने हेतु वॉकी-टाकी पहले ही मुहैया करा दिए गए हैं। यह सुविधा अब सभी सवारी गाड़ियों में मुहैया कराई जा रही है।

दूसरे चरण में मालगाड़ियों में इस सुविधा को उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**Railways dues against Electricity Boards and Power stations**

2920. Dr. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount the National Thermal Power Corporation, Delhi Vidyut Board, the State Electricity Boards and Power Stations owe to Railways as on 31st March 1999; separately, zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways for recovery of these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): A statement Containing details is given in Annexure. [See Appendix 186, *annexure no. 52*] March 1999 figures will be available only in next month hence the statement has been prepared on the basis of February 1999.

(b) In order to stop fresh accrual of outstanding dues against all State Electricity Boards/Power Houses, the scheme of pre-payment of freight for carriage of coal has been implemented w.e.f. 1.10.1996 and for Badarpur Thermal Power Plant of National Thermal Power Corporation w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

The past outstandings till December 1996 are being realised and adjusted by appropriation from Central Plan Assistance at the rate of 15% of total outlay and distributed prorata on the basis of proportion due to Indian Railways, National Thermal Power Corporation (Power Facility) & Coal India Ltd.

**New Railway projects for North-Eastern States**

2921. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of new projects announced in the Rail Budget for North Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the projects for which technical sanction has been given;

(c) the projects which are awaiting technical sanction;

(d) the amount provided for these projects during the current budget; and

(e) the amount provided for the ongoing projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) No new projects have been announced in the Rail Budget for North-Eastern States.

(e) Amount allocated to ongoing projects in the North-East Region in 1999-2000 is as follows:—

**New Lines:—**

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) Harmauti-Itanagar | - 10 Crores |
| (ii) Diphu-Karong | - 20 Crores |
| (iii) Bogibeel Bridge | - 5 Crores |
| (iv) Kumarghat-Agartala | -40 Crores |
| (v) Dudhnoi-Depa | - 2 Crores |
| (vi) Jogighopa-Guwahati | - 10 Crores |

**Gauge Conversion:—**

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) Katakhal-Bhairabhi | - 2 Crores |
| (ii) New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri -New Bongaigaon | - 69 Crores |
| (iii) Lumding-Silchar | - 40 Crores |
| (iv) Lumding-Dibrugarh | - 2 Crores |

Railway Projects are not planned on the basis of state boundaries. Statewise details of investments are not maintained.